

Tremendous Adventures of 'Polite Lunatic'

Roy Cummings, Comedian, Capitalizes Man's Love of Others' Misfortunes

The appearance of Roy Cummings, acrobatic comedian, in "The Whirl of New York" last week at the Winter Garden added a tempestuous element to an entertainment which was by no means lacking in essential pep.

But it was not until the second act, when Cummings lowered a trick drop of his own invention, that the comedian came completely under misrule.

This last week constituted Cummings' Winter Garden debut. He has been known hitherto as a daring performer of difficult feats, which often called for his dropping from various parts of the backstage structure.

Cummings began as a stage hand in Detroit. But he didn't remain one long. He had been in the theater for only a few days when his associates heard a thud backstage. They saw a figure lying on the empty stage.

"It's Cummings, the new boy," they said. "He must have fallen from the fly gallery and broke his neck."

Cummings got to his feet. "Fly gallery, nothing," he answered scornfully. "I dropped from the grid-iron."

After that very little attention was paid to Cummings, but he continued to leap from every elevated part of the theater. Finally he developed a habit of falling from the proscenium arch at dramatic performances, and it was agreed that the manager of the theater would have to stop it.

But this did not come to pass. The manager of a traveling troupe whose performance had been interrupted thought that Cummings would do well in vaudeville and was willing to risk some money on him.

The manager's faith was justified. Cummings was soon a star in vaudeville in big demand. "When 'The Passing Show of 1918' left the Winter Garden for its coast-to-coast tour of the country Cummings was signed by the Shuberts. He spent three years with the show in a series of droll but daring exploits.

Now with "The Whirl of New York" Cummings makes his Winter Garden debut. In the Winter Garden he has ample room to display his daring.

Cummings himself says that his unusual mode of entertaining the public is based upon sound philosophy. "Early in life I discovered that I had the nerve to leap from lofty places," he said last night, "and I also found that I had the knack or unusual gift of landing right on my feet without injury, where another man would have broken his neck. I thought about utilizing that talent. I decided that the two things that greatly interested and entertained the public were the misfortunes of others and nerve or daring. I decided to develop a style of personal entertaining based upon those two philosophical facts. I became a stage hand to learn the possibilities as a leading place of the theater.

"When I got into vaudeville I made many of my leaps and falls seem the result of accident or misfortune, so for instance at the Winter Garden, when I fell headforemost into the orchestra pit among the musicians. As a matter of fact, that fall is a leap very carefully calculated. If it were not I would not be here to tell about it. But it seems an accident—a misfortune, and the public laughs and applauds. Then when I think that I have played long enough upon the public's love of things, misfortunes I do some daring things, such as leaping from the balcony of the Winter Garden, and they like that, too."

"I only use two attributes of the misfortunes of others and its love of the daring."

Innovations Offered by New Independent Pictures

Pyramid Pictures, Inc., was formed in Delaware last week with a capitalization of \$1,000,000. This new concern, which has opened offices at 150 West Thirty-fourth Street, will produce six new super-features a year for the independent market. Ray C. Smallwood, who has guided the destinies of Nazimova in her productions for Metro, will be in charge of the first producing unit. No capital stock will be offered for sale. Officers in the new company will be announced next week.

With the formation of this new concern three features new to the motion picture field will be brought forward by Pyramid Pictures. In the first place, Mr. Smallwood declares that the East is the proper place to produce, and to prove this assertion he shall place his producing unit in local territory for the first six pictures.

In the second place, Mr. Smallwood's idea of the author securing a portion of the gross receipts with a cash advance will be adhered to.

At the New Brighton



Francene

Stage Gossip

(Continued from page one)

engaged with her screen work. Miss Akins is the author of "Déclassé," which Ethel Barrymore made such a great success last season, and in which she will go on tour in the autumn. Mr. Harris has accepted another play by Miss Akins, entitled "St. Ursula," and will star Emily Stevens in it early next season. Plans for the production of Miss Ferguson's play call for rehearsals to begin the middle of September, which will bring the New York opening on or about the first of November.

"Bluebeard's Eighth Wife," the American adaptation by Charlton Andrews of Alfred Savoir's "La Huitième Femme de Barbe Bleue," which has been a great Paris success, will be presented to-night in Atlantic City by William Harris. Mary Servoss and Edmund Breese will play the two principal roles. Their supporting cast includes Fritz Williams, Barry Baxter, Doris Mitchell, Pauline Whitson, Jules Epailly, Rexford Kendrick, George Arthurs and Desmond Gallagher.

Mary Alden Mothers Many a Family on the Silver Screen

It was, comparatively speaking, a large family that Mary Alden was suddenly called upon to play mother to in "The Old Nest," Rupert Hughes' newest photoplay, which opened last week at the Astor Theater. But Miss Alden accepted them all—husband and six children—with the philosophy born of experience, and set to work dishing up the breakfast porridge, getting the children off for school, her doctor husband off on his rounds, and in between times rocking the baby to sleep. She has kept house for a good many husbands and children during her screen career.

She had the part of a mother in the very first photoplay she appeared in, Griffith's "Battle of the Sexes," and she has been playing wife and mother roles off and on ever since to a great many screen celebrities, including Henry Walthall, Will Rogers, James Kirkwood, Jack Pickford, Donald Crisp and a dozen others. Her interpretation of the mother part in Ibsen's "Ghosts," when that was done into pictures, and again in the Griffith picture was excellent. Her finished performance in "The Old Nest," therefore, came as no surprise to those who had seen her previous work in such character.

Modestly she gives a large share of credit for her achievement to make-up. It isn't easy to imagine Mary Alden without stage fright, yet she insists that her make-up is her only protection against it.

"If I had to stand up before an audience and be just Mary Alden," she says, "I should be helpless from embarrassment and self-consciousness. It's only because I can pretend to be some one else that I am able to play at all. That, I believe, is pretty generally true. The hardest thing for any actor to do is to play a straight rôle. He wants to hide behind some one else's personality."

Miss Alden is a native of New Orleans, received her schooling at Notre Dame, in Montreal, and made her first stage appearance in London in Shakespearean repertoire. Between engagements she worked on a newspaper. For her first dramatic work in America she got back home to New Orleans, where she appeared with Baldwin & Melville.

After "The Battle of the Sexes" she played in two later Griffith pictures, "The Birth of a Nation," in which she had the part of the mulatto woman, and "Intolerance." For Goldwyn, previous to her present picture, she has played in the picture of Arnold Bennett's and Edward Knobloch's play, "Milestones"; in "Honest Hutch" opposite Will Rogers, and in the screen version of Katherine Newlin Burr's story, "Snowblind."

Rita Weiman Coming East

Rita Weiman is returning to New York this week from the Goldwyn studios in California, having completed her work there on "The Grim Comedian," an original story for the screen. Miss Weiman participated in the production of the photoplay. "The Grim Comedian" was directed by Frank Lloyd and has a cast which includes Phoebe Hunt, Jack Holt, Gloria Hope, Laura Lavarni and John Harron.

Ernest Torrence in Films

Ernest Torrence, who made such a hit as the captain in the Broadway production of the "Night Boat," is to make his film debut as the heavy in "Tol'able David."

Dorothy Ward Revises Some Of Her Beliefs

English Actress Concludes American Women Know How to Keep Health

Dorothy Ward, the London musical comedy star who is Cora Angelique in "The Whirl of New York" at the Winter Garden, says that American women have completely upset her previous ideas of what constituted a healthful life.

"Of course, I have not had an exhaustive opportunity of studying American women," she said last night at the Winter Garden, "but I have come in contact so far with a great many American women socially and, of course, in a company the size of that presenting 'The Whirl of New York' there are many women. I think the women of the company may be taken as representing an average of the women of America. They come from every section of the country and from all sorts of homes. They have completely unsettled some of the rigid beliefs which I brought with me from England.

"For instance, I was taught and grew up in the conviction that in order to be healthful it was vitally necessary to have more or less strenuous exercise out of doors. So I golfed and rode religiously every day. Over here I find that while many women do these things the average woman does not have the time or opportunity to engage in such-door pastimes. Our distances are so much shorter over there that, for instance we find small difficulty in going into the country for golfing. Here one practically has to give up a whole day to reaching the links, playing a round or so and getting back.

"At first I find that American women are just as strong as English women and in just as good health. In the theater they work long hours readily and without undue fatigue.

"But there is one thing that I find due to the difference in mode of life. The American type, on the whole, I think, is a petite type, while the English type is large. Perhaps this is due to the difference in manner of life I have spoken of, but it may not be so. 'American women, it seems to me, are far quicker to learn to do things than English women. The American chorus girl is facile and adept. She can be taught a very difficult thing in practically one lesson.

"We in England, as I have said, feel that we must have much out-of-doors exercise. But that feeling and need may be due to our climate. Over here it may be that the very nervous energy of the people themselves gives them sufficient exercise. I have noted that the American man or woman is never still for any long period. The constant movement about during the whole of the waking hours may in the end amount to sufficient exercise for the American under the conditions in which he lives.

"In any event it is quite plain to me that the American woman is able to keep efficient and healthful without any great degree of out-of-doors exercise as we know it in England."

Naomi Childers Weds

Mrs. J. Douglas Childers has just announced the marriage of her daughter Naomi to Luther Anderson Reed on Wednesday, June 15. It is to be hoped that Miss Childers will not desert the screen. It needs her.

Hippodrome Cooler Than The Sensure

MANAGEMENT CHARLES DILLINGHAM EVERY DAY (SUN.) 8:30

"TRADITION"

A Drama Laid in Two Continents MALCOLM STRAUB'S Master Motion Picture. "THE TWICE BORN WOMAN" "GREATEST STORY OF ALL TIMES" —BY JOURNAL

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Annabella, Kane & Herman, Harry & Edna Seymour, Maxine Miller, Jodie Hooten, Fred Blumkin, Florence & Baronesse De Turouff, Roy Harrah & Co. and others.

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NEW BRIGHTON

HAROLD DIXON and 16 London Palace Girls WILLIAM EBS

VAL & ERNIE SULLY & STANTON HOUGHTON

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STADIUM SYMPHONY EASON HENRY HADLEY and VICTOR HERBERT Conductors

ORCHESTRA OF 80 PLAYERS SOLOISTS OF DISTINCTION EVERY NIGHT AT 8:30 BEGINNING THURS.

Prices 25c, 50c, \$1.00—Phone Circle 2164.

At Palace Theater



Blossom Seeley

'The Stranger's Banquet' To Be Put on Screen

By Marshall Neilan

Marshall Neilan has closed negotiations with Donn Byrne, the famous Irish author, for the picture of "The Stranger's Banquet." Mr. Byrne recently visited the producer at his New York studio to make preliminary arrangements for the handling of this adaptation. Since writing the book he has had two years to study the conditions that followed in the turn of public events and which somewhat changed situations he brings out in his story.

In collaboration with Mr. Neilan the noted author will rewrite his story for picture, with the idea of making it a daring story of conditions that exist in this country at the present time. Mr. Neilan plans to make this story one of the two subjects he will produce during the next year on an elaborate scale for Associated First National.

Theatres Under Direction of Hugo Riesenfeld

CRITERION SQUARE CONTINUOUS NOON TO 11.30 P. M.

"THE GOLEM"

"ELI, ELI"—TONY SARG ALMANAC—OLD PRAGUE BUSTER KEATON COMEDY—"HARD LUCK"

RIVOLI BROADWAY AT 49th ST Beginning Today

REX INGRAM'S

CREATOR OF THE FOUR HORSEMEN Latest Special Production



"The CONQUERING POWER"

with ALICE TERRY and RUDOLPH VALENTINO the two Lovers of his first great success Adapted from BALZAC'S "Eugenie Grandet" A Metro Picture

RIALTO SQUARE Beginning Today

DOROTHY DALTON "BEHIND MASKS"

A Paramount Picture Hugo Riesenfeld and Joseph Lillia Conducting

MARK STRAND

BEGINNING TO-DAY HARRY RAYER presents the TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST PICTURE

"D'ANNUNZIO'S CABIRIA"

THE MIGHTY SPECTACLE WITH THE GREAT HERO WARRIOR OF THE ALPS AND A CAST OF 7000 A SPECIAL PROLOGUE AND MUSICAL SETTING AMANDA BROWN, Soprano.

MARK STRAND TOPICAL REVIEW STRAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CARL EDGARDE - CONDUCTING

Alpheus Lincoln in Double Screen Role in "Determination"

When the producers of "Determination" signed up Alpheus Lincoln to play the dual star rôle in that big photoplay, seen to be presented at a Broadway theater, and simultaneously in the chief cities of the country, they felt as though their biggest feat was accomplished.

It was no easy task to find just the one right man who could portray two such widely opposing characters as John Norton and James Melville, the twin brothers in "Determination," the one a highly developed soul working for humanity in the Whitechapel district of London, the other a gambler and roué, pet of the demi-monde and sporting circles of Paris. In Alpheus Lincoln they secured the man. He has a broad knowledge of human nature, its motives and foibles; a wide range of parts to his credit, and, what is going to prove of no little value the completion of "Determination," is a boxer and an expert fencer.

Alpheus Lincoln gained his early theatrical training in the good American manner, in stock, notably in Detroit, Rochester, Yonkers and Denver. His first engagement in a production was the original Black Jack in "Freckles." Next he created and played for thirty-three weeks the leading hero in Thomas Dixon's drama, "The Leopard's Spots." The next season Alpheus Lincoln acted the lead in the three act stage version of "War Brides"; the male lead in "Lilac Time"; the leading hero in "When Rogues Fall Out" and the heavy in "Love's Lightning."

Mr. Lincoln was under contract with Weber & Anderson for the Irish lead, in "The Very Idea" when he volunteered in the signal corps of the United States army, where he remained until the close of the war.

Among Mr. Lincoln's notable picture characterizations have been Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and Christ for the Edison Studios, and the rôles opposite Mme. Olga Petrova and Mabel Trunnelle with Arnold Daly, when the latter was filming his famous detective series of Pathé, and the lead opposite Stella Mayhew in the photo-drama tentatively titled "A School for Husbands."

AMERICA'S FOREMOST THEATRES AND HITS—DIRECTION OF LEE & J. J. SHUBERT

THE WHIRL OF NEW YORK

GEORGE ARLISS The GREEN GODDESS

LITTLE JOHN GOLDEN Presents The 1st YEAR

MR. PIM PASSES BY "LILION"

UNANIMOUS!

"THEY'VE DONE IT! The Old Nest is sterling in every scene... it's natural and human... never seems to stop while it orders you to laugh or to cry... 'GENUINE APPLAUSE, spontaneous and whole-hearted... much more than a mother picture... it is really said... Mary Alden gives one of the most perfect performances we have ever seen on the screen...'

EVERY ONE IS FLYING TO THE OLD NEST AT THE ASTOR

NEW YORK'S LEADING THEATRES

GLOBE THEATRE ZIEGFELD FOLLIES

Why Wait? SEE A. L. ERLANGERS Musical Laugh Hit!

TWO LITTLE GIRLS IN BLUE

COHAN THEATRE

GAITY THEATRE

KLAW THEATRE

STEEPLECHASE THE FUNNY PLACE

PAISADES AMUSEMENT PARK

LUNA PRYOR'S BAND

THE LAST WALTZ CLEANER PAINTER

THE AMBASSADOR

THE DUMBELLS

THE THEATRE GUILD Presents MR. PIM PASSES BY "LILION"

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LUNA PRYOR'S BAND

SHUBERT THEATRE

MOROSCO

THE BAT

SELWYN THEATRE

TIMES SQUARE THEATRE

LYRIC THEATRE

4TH ENORMOUS MONTH

QUEEN OF SHEBA

CAPITOL

HAROLD LLOYD

TWO LITTLE GIRLS IN BLUE

COHAN THEATRE

GAITY THEATRE

KLAW THEATRE

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